**News Compilation for Catholic Church News aired on Radio Maria**

**Air Date: 28/ 04/ 2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Isabella Saleu with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Regina Coeli: 'The Holy Spirit gives us courage, hope and faith'**
2. **Declaration of PNG as a Christian Country ‘UNNECESSARY’**
3. **New Bishops for Daru Kiunga & Aitape**
4. **DWU Wewak launches Faculty of Business and informatics**
5. **Chinese Ambassador visits Archdiocese of Honiara**
6. **Catholic Education conducts Monitoring Program in Highlands**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Regina Coeli: 'The Holy Spirit gives us courage, hope and faith'**

On Pentecost Sunday Pope Francis invited the faithful to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit and go out in the world with courage, hope and faith to witness the love of the Risen Jesus Christ.

The Pope highlighted two main points: The Spirit is the Lord and giver of life, and the Spirit changes the heart.

Regarding the first point, the Pope said the Holy Spirit cannot be understood within our human exigencies, in our methods and our preconceptions: “The Spirit proceeds from God the Father and from his Son Jesus Christ and bursts upon the Church, giving life to our minds and our hearts. As the Creed states: He is ‘the Lord, the giver of life’”.

Stressing on the second point, The Pope said that the Spirit changed the heart and broadened the disciples' view enabling them “to communicate to everyone the great, limitless works of God, surpassing the cultural and religious confines within which they were accustomed to thinking and living.”

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**News item 2 – Declaration of PNG as a Christian Country ‘UNNECESSARY’**

The Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of PNGSI has come out strongly to express its dissatisfaction at the Government’s lack of consultation with local Churches in formulating the Inquiry on the Declaration of Papua New Guinea as a Christian Country.

The emphasis was made at a Press Conference on Thursday 20th May, at the CBC headquarters in Gordons. According to the statement contained in the submission, CBC disapproved all four questions contained in the inquiry and stated that it was not necessary to amend the current PNG Constitution.

Sir John Cardinal Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby, highlighted the important pastoral duties that churches have in upholding Christian values and expressed his disappointment at the government’s lack of consideration to at least consult with churches or the different religious bodies.

President of CBC and Archbishop of Madang, Anton Bal, described how the amendment of the Constitution to declare PNG a Christian country only seemed to make a mockery of the nation’s existing laws in place, and urged for the government not to use it as a means of promoting political ideologies.

Mr Paul Harricknen, President of Catholic Professional Society PNG, said achieving the status of Christianity could not be achieved by legislation formation but by practicing our faith in our deeds and in the way we lived.

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**News item 3 – New Bishops for Daru Kiunga & Aitape**

The Apostolic Nunciature in Papua New Guinea informs us that His Holiness, Pope Francis, has appointed as Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Reverend Fr Joseph Durero SVD, until now Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Madang.

The announcement was made by the Apostolic Nunciature on Sunday 23rd May. He succeeds his predecessor, Most Rev Gilles Cote SMM, from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga for having reached the age limit. His Holiness, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation presented to him.

Bp Gilles has been appointed as Apostolic Administrator of the same Diocese will continue in this position until the day the new Bishop takes canonical position of the diocese.

Pope Francis has also appointed a new bishop to the Diocese of Aitape. He is Indian priest Fr Siby Mathew Peedikayil of the congregation of Heralds of Good News.  Fr Siby has been serving as the vicar general of the Diocese of Vanimo in PNG.  He takes over from Bp Otto Separy who was transferred as Bishop of Bereina last July 2019.

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**News item 4 – DWU Wewak launches Faculty of Business and informatics**

The Faculty of Business and Informatics was officially launched at the St Benedict’s campus of Divine Word University, Wewak on Thursday 20th May.

The milestone was officiated by Governor of East Sepik Allan Bird and was witnessed by students, staff members and distinguished guests from the Madang campus.

In his keynote address Governor Allan Bird supported the Vice President’s remarks by stating that the St Benedict’s campus in a span of 3 years has accomplished tremendously towards its efforts in establishing a campus that supports the education of the young people of our nation.

Vice President of the campus, Dr Fr. Lawrence Arockiaraj during his speech stated that the launching of the faculty was one that encourages the students to share information not be information givers but be transformation makers of education in PNG.

The campus since its inception in 2017 had three other departments prior to the launching of the School.

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**News Item 5 – Chinese Ambassador visits Archdiocese of Honiara**

Chinese Ambassador to Solomon Islands His Excellency Mr. Li Ming joined the congregation at the Eucharistic celebration on the Feast of Pentecost and Birthday of the Church at Holy Cross Cathedral in Honiara on Sunday 23rd May.

Mr. Ming’s visit follows after a courtesy visit in 2020 to meet Archbishop of Honiara, Christopher Cardone. Celebrating mass Abp Cardone shared in his homily the importance of the feast of Pentecost and encouraged people to pray for Peace and Unity.

Mr. Ming expressed his joy and happiness, and said he was blessed to be able to witness such a great ceremony.

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**News item 6 – Catholic Education conducts Monitoring Program in Highlands**

A monitoring program carried out by the National Catholic Education Secretariat was conducted from 17th – 21st May, at different dioceses in the Highlands Region.

Facilitating the program were Mr. Michael Ova, Secretary for Catholic Education and Chairman of National Churches Education Council, and NCEC Assistant Secretary, Ms. Fiona Wenama.

The monitoring program came a week after the Catholic Education Secretaries and Coordinators Annual Conference and served as an assessment into the implementation of what was received during the conference.

Mr. Ova said the trip gave them an actual first-hand insight as to what the situation was like on the ground where Catholic schools were concerned.

Apart from the monitoring program, a power point presentation on the Board of Management Roles and Responsibilities was also presented to enrich those concerned on their duties that came with the titles they carried.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

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**This ends the Catholic Church news for this week. Join us next week for more.**

**From all of us here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**